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5. (U) EUR - FRENCH-GERMAN COMMUNIQUE ON SOVIET
INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

(U) AT THE CLOSE OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL FRENCH-GERMAN SUMMIT MEETING FEBRUARY 5, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING ISSUED A SIX-POINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE STRONGEST PUBLIC STATEMENT OF EITHER GOVERNMENT ON THE CRISIS IN SOUTHWEST ASIA.

(U) BRIEFLY, THE DECLARATION JUDGES THE SOVIET INTERVENTION UNACCEPTABLE AND CALLS FOR ITS END. IT ALSO PLACES THE CRISIS IN THE CONTEXT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, REAFFIRMS THE FIDELITY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND IMPLIES AN ALLIED RESPONSE. IT POINTS OUT THAT SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE INTRODUCED UNCERTAINTIES INTO DETENTE, CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS AND WARNS THAT DETENTE COULD NOT RESIST ANOTHER SHOCK. IN CASE OF ANOTHER SHOCK, THE TWO COUNTRIES IN LIAISON WITH THEIR ALLIES, WOULD TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THEIR SECURITY AND DEFEND INTERNATIONAL STABILITY. THE COMMUNIQUE POINTS OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION NOT EXTEND TO THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD. IT ALSO RECALLS FRENCH-GERMAN COOPERATION SINCE THE WAR AND CITES THEIR WILLINGNESS TO EXERCISE, WITH THEIR ALLIES, EUROPE'S "PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY" TO ASSURE PRESERVATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL BALANCES WHICH DETERMINE EUROPEAN SECURITY. THE COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES BY REPEATING THE CALL FOR SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND POINTING OUT THAT WITHDRAWAL IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF DISCUSSIONS ON WHICH SECURITY AND PEACE DEPEND.

(U) WHILE THE STATEMENT WAS LARGELY CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS GERMAN POSITIONS, IT DOES REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION IN FRENCH POLICY TOWARD STRONGER OPPOSITION TO THE SOVIET INVASION AND A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER STEPS IN THE EAST-WEST CONTEXT. THE DECLARATION DOES NOT COMMIT EITHER COUNTRY TO ACTIONS SUCH AS AN OLYMPIC BOYCOTT OR ECONOMIC REPRISALS. HOWEVER, AT A MEETING OF THE EC MINISTERS MEETING THE SAME DAY IN BRUSSELS, BOTH GERMAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE OPPOSED THE OLYMPIC BOYCOTT, INDICATED A SHIFT IN THEIR POSITIONS TOWARD MORE PUNITIVE ACTION REGARDING THE MOSCOW GAMES.

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